



# PRESS RELEASE

## Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Cincinnati Field Office *Special Agent in Charge Kathy A. Enstrom*

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### **TWO WOMEN INDICTED IN TAX REFUND SCAM**

COLUMBUS, OHIO -- A federal grand jury here has indicted Shonda A. Hoskins, a/k/a Shonda Ellison, 42, of Columbus, Ohio, and Shavona R. Toles, 34, of Columbus, Ohio charging them with one count each of conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) by willfully filing false claims for income tax refunds.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio and Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office announced the indictments that were returned on March 17th.

According to the indictment, between February 2009 and December 2010 Hoskins and Toles allegedly conspired to defraud the IRS by filing false claims for income tax refunds by preparing and filing false 2008 and 2009 federal income tax returns, which typically included a false Form 5405, First-Time Homebuyer Credit and Repayment of the Credit, claiming refunds to which they knew they were not entitled.

As part of the scheme, Hoskins and Toles allegedly recruited other individuals and used their personal identifying information to prepare and file false income tax returns which contained fabricated amounts of income, income tax withholdings, home purchase information, and fictitious dependents, generating false claims for income tax refunds for which they were not entitled.

In addition, Hoskins and Toles allegedly received the false income tax refunds through bank accounts they had established, and they kept a substantial amount of the false income tax refunds, as well as distributed certain amounts of the income tax refunds to many of the other conspirators whose personal identifying information they had used.

It has been alleged that in 2009 Hoskins received \$123,295 in false income tax refunds from the IRS and deposited them into bank accounts held at Huntington National Bank. The false income tax refunds originated from the filing of 30 false 2008 income tax returns, each of which included a false Form 5405. In addition, also in 2009, Hoskins and Toles received \$152,105 in false income tax refunds from the IRS deposited them into a bank account held at Huntington National Bank, an account that had been opened and controlled by Toles. The false income tax refunds originated from the filing of 32 false 2008 income tax returns, each of which included a false Form 5405.

Also, in 2010, it has been alleged that Hoskins and Toles prepared and filed approximately 110 false income tax returns with the IRS that generated over \$500,000 in false income tax refunds to which

they were not entitled.

Conspiracy to file false claims with for income tax refunds with the IRS carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

“The defendants perpetrated a scheme that systematically defrauded the government and the taxpaying public,” said Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charges, IRS Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office. “At the IRS, protecting taxpayer money is a matter we take very seriously. IRS Criminal Investigation will continue to vigorously pursue those who unjustly enrich themselves by preparing false claims for refunds.”

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel Brown and was investigated by special agents of IRS-Criminal Investigation.

An indictment merely contains allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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